

Amendment⁺
after final

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

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10-21-03

3. (Currently amended) A method of forging a material, said method comprising:
adding a second material to ~~a first material~~ steel to obtain a third material, the second material comprising at least one metal from the group consisting of group VB metals;
heating the third material to a temperature in a range of 1150 - 1250 °C;
forging the heated third material to a prescribed shape;
cooling the forged third material;
holding the cooled forged third material in a tempering temperature area of a furnace at a temperature in a range of 500 - 700 °C; and
cooling the cooled forged material to a normal temperature by natural cooling, so that carbon and nitrides that include the second material ~~may precipitate on the first material~~ steel.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said holding comprises holding the cooled forged material for 30-60 minutes.

3. (Proposed Examiner's Amendment) A method of forging a steel material, said method comprising:

providing adding a second steel material to steel to obtain a third material, the second material comprising containing at least one element metal from the group consisting of group } *Correction*
~~consisting of V, Nb and Ta VB metals;~~

heating the third steel material to a temperature in a range of 1150 - 1250 °C;

forging the heated third steel material to a prescribed shape;

cooling the forged third steel material;

holding the cooled forged third steel material in a tempering temperature area of a furnace at a temperature in a range of 500 - 700 °C; and

cooling the cooled forged material to a normal temperature by natural cooling, so that carbon and nitrides that include V, Nb and Ta the second material precipitate on the steel material and a fine ferrite-perlite structure is formed.

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December 19, 2003
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